

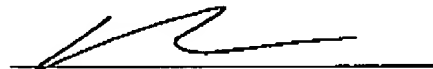
Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-17, 22-24, 26, 38, 40, and 41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claim 8, has been cancelled. In the Office action, claims 1-3, 5-7 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,168,126 (Stafford); and claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stafford in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,717,131 (Dugas). Further, claims 8-10 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim and claims 14-17, 22-24, 26, 38 and 40 were allowed.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 8. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the housing further includes a u-shaped channel affixed to the housing coupling. Since such a feature is neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 and 9-10 are also in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald A. D'Alessandro
Reg. No.: 42,456

Date: 6/20/03
Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)